

Chelmsford Amateur Radio Society.

NEWSLETTER No.284

September 1989

NEXT MEETING - Aerials Are Not Magic!

On Tuesday 5th September we welcome the return to the rostrum of Tony Gilbey, G4YTG to present a "no maths talk on aerials".

On previous occasions Tony has entertained us with interesting talks, in February 1985 the subject was Very Low Frequency Antennas and in March 1987, Kite Antennas, more recently Tony had his article 'Chicken-wire Discone' published in Practical Wireless.

We look forward to an interesting evening when Tony hopes to "kill some of the sacred cow myths on the subject"

The meeting will begin at 7.30pm and we hope you will all be able to come along to The Marconi College, Arbour Lane, Chelmsford.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.

- 5 Sep. CLUB MEETING - Aerials Are Not Magic!, Tony Gilbey G4YTG.
- 12 Sep. SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING - Planning 1990 Field Day.
- 3 Oct. THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.
- 7 Nov. CLUB MEETING - Sporadic E Propagation, Jim Bacon G3YLA.
- 5 Dec. CLUB MEETING - Sale of Surplus Equipment.

LAST MONTHS MEETING - Rig Testing Session - Roy, G3PMX.

From the complimentary remarks received after the meeting, the committee were pleased that members appeared to enjoy this session, not only for its technical content but for the opportunity to have a "jolly good natter".

For the Rig Testing, two test benches were in operation. Dick, G3WHR was in charge of 'bench one' with a Hewlett Packard 8558B/853A Spectrum Analyzer 1.8GHz, Bird 8329 Power Attenuator 2KW/30dB, Systron Donner 6245A Frequency Counter 16Hz and a Bird 43 Thruline Wattmeter with a wide selection of elements.

With this equipment Dick was able to check six HF transceivers for harmonic and out-of-band signals when the sets were on full power, to measure the output power level and to accurately measure the frequency of the inserted carrier.

On 'bench two' Roy, G3PMX had a Marconi Instruments 2955 Radio Communication Test Set, Home-brew Audio Coupler and a selection of 13.8V d.c. Power Supplies.

With this equipment Roy was able to check twelve VHF/UHF transceivers for overall performance, e.g. receiver sensitivity using SINAD, transmit, receive and offset frequency, power output level and modulation deviation. The Audio Coupler enabled the modulation to be applied through the microphone associated with the set, having the additional advantage of not requiring the multiplicity of connector types and input levels for the different makes.

A third test bench was in operation but this was for checking the performance of the operators!, Harry G2HPF brought along one of his computers with the morse reading program to enable members to test their manual dexterity against the unforgiving machine, there were some surprises and we are pleased to report that most were pleasant.

Our thanks to all who contributed to this enjoyable evening.

SIX METRES - Elia G6HKM.

50MHz is a mixture of VHF and HF, I find it a fascinating band, one which enables me as a Class B Licence holder to contact countries not possible before its general release.

The station equipment for 50MHz at the QTH of G3PMX/G6HKM is an ICOM 575 and a home brew 5 element yagi, made by Roy of course.

Monitoring the band requires time and patience and you have to be dedicated, you can listen for hours, days, perhaps weeks and not hear a thing, but the very time you slacken is when you miss the dx. With the peak of the sunspot cycle ahead of us we are all hoping for spectacular openings during the equinox periods.

Since the 1st January this year I have worked the following countries:-

Algeria	France	Namibia	Market Reef	U.S.A.
Argentina	Gibraltar	Netherlands	Portugal	Uruguay
Canada	Guernsey	Nigeria	Scotland	Wales
Corsica	Guinea-Bissau	N.Ireland	South Africa	Zimbabwe
Ecuador	Greece	Norway	Spain	
Finland	Jersey	Malta	Sweden	

also worked were two maritime mobile stations, one an LU in the South Atlantic off the coast of Brazil and a PA in the Mediterranean between the coasts of Spain and Corsica.

Countries heard but not worked, Japan and Brazil, also San Marino (on the key).

I have no desire to work the HF bands but find it a real challenge to work the dx on the bands that I have available to me.

COMMITTEE MEETING.

The September Committee Meeting will be held in the Telford Lodge (Marconi College Residence) at 7:45pm on Wednesday, 13th September. You are most welcome to join us.

DF NEWS - Dick G3WHR.

Part 1 - Third Chelmsford Event.

This took place on the 7th July when Alan Williams was the hidden station. Thus I became one of the hunters. The start bearings went towards Earls Colne. This is an awkward direction because the bearing runs parallel with the road and its difficult to get a good angle for the second bearing.

Two bearings later everyone was converging on a small wood near the railway to the north of Wakes Colne. After crossing the line, I found an aerial running along the edge of this wood, however, the usual bush beating failed to produce results.

Several trains had gone by before I noticed that the activity around me had diminished, a sure sign to DF hunters that the're in the wrong place. Finally I realised that I should be looking the other side of the tracks - which is where I found Alan. Looking up I still couldn't see a tee across - not suprising when Alan showed me a wire running under the railway lines - the cunning old ---.

Results:-	1	Ian Butson	8.38	4	Philip Cunningham	8.51
	2	Andrew Mead	8.42	5	Dick Brocks	8.57
	3	Andy Collett	8.50	6	Roy Emeny	8.58

Part 2 - The Fourth Chelmsford Event.

This took place on the 11th August with Frank Pearson as the hidden station. We expected the bearing to go in the Manningtree direction - and were correct.

Subsequent bearings indicated the river Stour - but which side? The closest access appeared to be Flatford Mill - tricky for those without the Bury map since the access to this area is not on OS168.

I thought I made good time but others had found a faster route - by the time I arrived at Fen bridge the winner had been and gone. I was also relieved to see that a new bridge had been installed over the river - at least I wasn't going to get wet.

The aerial was visible on the north bank but I discovered G4JVM/P hidden under the southern rampart of the bridge - Frank had run the aerial under the bridge.

There wasn't much contest time left, also it was getting dark, when the National Champion arrived. Time doesn't matter so much on Chelmsford events - so it was back into the bushes on the north bank for a while.

Results:-	1	Colin Merry	8.32	4	Andy Collett	9.02
	2	Alan Williams	8.33	5	Ian Butson	9.02
	3	Dick Brocks	8.44	6	Andrew Mead	9.20

Part 3 - The Chelmsford Colchester National Qualifying Event.

This event is run jointly by Chelmsford and Colchester Clubs on behalf of the RSGB. Its the last Qualifying event before the National Final, which means that you can still qualify from about 16th place if those above you have previously Qualified.

Start details:-

DATE. Sunday 10th September. LOCATION. Long Melford Green, NGR 866467.

MAP. OS 155, Bury St.Edmunds. TIME. 1300 BST for 1320 BST start.

If you require tea afterwards (highly recommended) then please contact Ian Butson or myself by Sept. 3rd.

FUTURE EVENTS. 10th Sept. RSGB Chelmsford/Colchester. 24th Sept. RSGB National Final.
15th Sept. Chelmsford. 29th Sept. Colchester.

PLANNING 1990 FIELD DAY.

Although it may seem a long way off, now is the time to consider how we can improve our facilities and hopefully our position in the results for next years event.

Gwyn, G4FKH has kindly offered his QTH as the venue for a sub-committee meeting at 8.00 pm on Tuesday 12th September. You are very welcome to join this meeting to express your views and make suggestions. Please let Gwyn know you are coming, Tel: (0245)260831.

TICKETS FOR THE NOVEMBER MEETING.

Have you applied for yours yet? As mentioned last month we will have the pleasure of introducing the Anglia Television weather man, Jim Bacon, G3YLA, at the November meeting.

Tickets will again be available at the September meeting, if you are unable to attend then applications can be made by an S.A.E. to Ela, G6HKM.

The closing date for members applications will be at the A.G.M. in October when any remaining tickets will be made available to visitors.

73 from Roy & Ela Martyr, G3PMX & G6HKM

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MEMBERS ADVERTISEMENTS

FREE - To good home.

Trio 9R-59DS Receiver with Speaker and handbook.

Brian G3CVI, Tel No. (0245)71919.

FOR SALE.

Marconi CR-150 Receiver (2-54MHz), Very good working order. Offers invited.

J. Glasgow, Tel No. (0245)72553.